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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/2011 TAGS: <u>PREL PHUM UNGA IR BU</u>

SUBJECT: BULGARIA AGAINST IRAN'S HRC CANDIDACY

REF: A. STATE 66050 ¶B. SOFIA 527

Classified By: Ambassador John Beyrle, for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

(C) We delivered reftel A talking points to Lili Vulchanova in the MFA's Human Rights Directorate on 5 May. Vulchanova did not express a detailed Bulgarian position on the issue, but said that there was no chance of Bulgaria supporting Iran's candidacy. On the possibility of lobbying against Iran's candidacy, she said that Bulgaria would likely support any common EU position on the issue —— to the best of her knowledge, the issue was still being discussed in Brussels as of May 4 and a consensus had yet to emerge.

Beyrle